

# Quick Reads

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## PHAB visit

A [PHAB](#) accreditation process mock site visit occurred Monday, April 30 and Tuesday, May 1. The mock site visit, provided through a technical assistance opportunity from the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials](#) (ASTHO), intended to prepare IDPH staff for the types of questions to be expected during the official site visit scheduled in July. It was a rich learning opportunity for all involved.

## Congrats and kudos

Congratulations to IDPH Health Statistics Bureau Chief Melissa Bird, who has been elected to the 2018-20 [NAPHSIS](#) Board of Directors.

Kudos to the Cerro Gordo County Public Health Department, which put together a fun and educational video for National Public Health Week. You can view the video [here](#).



The IDPH Chronic Disease Prevention & Management bureau worked together to build 88 May Day baskets for kids at Orchard Place. Orchard Place provides community-based mental health services for children.

## Local public health success story: Wapello County

An administrative rule change to [require meningococcal vaccine](#) for students enrolling in seventh and 12th grades became effective January 11, 2017 and was implemented at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

When Ottumwa Schools in Wapello County started classes on August 23 of last year, many seventh and 12<sup>th</sup> graders were not allowed to attend, due to the lack of vaccinations.

Despite holding a vaccination clinic the day before school started, [Wapello County Public Health](#) found there were still many students who did not meet the vaccination requirement.

When the school called the county health department about offering another clinic, Wapello County Public Health quickly arranged for vaccinations to be offered Friday, August 25. Parents were notified so their children could attend, and they were given registration forms for verification if they qualified for VFC vaccine. Wapello County Public Health also offered vaccines at their office.

By working with the school to make it easy for children to receive the necessary immunizations, class time was minimally disrupted and children were protected from disease.

## IDPH spotlight: Immunizations and TB



Don Callaghan

The [Bureau of Immunization and Tuberculosis](#) consists of the Immunization, Tuberculosis (TB) Control and Refugee Health Programs. The Bureau of Immunization and Tuberculosis works to reduce the impact of communicable diseases in Iowa and

to eliminate the morbidity associated with these diseases. Programs within the bureau monitor current infectious disease trends, prevent transmission of infectious diseases, distribute vaccines to Vaccine for Children program providers, provide early detection and treatment for infected persons, and ensures healthcare access for newly arriving refugees.

Bureau Chief Don Callaghan supervises 19 staff. Recently, the Immunization Program has been working to increase Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine rates among adolescents throughout Iowa. As part of these activities, the program developed a series of [HPV Cancer Survivor videos](#) showing the impact of HPV-associated cancer on Iowans. The videos put faces to HPV-associated cancers and reinforce the importance of receiving HPV vaccine.

Don has been with IDPH for 24 years, previously working at Linn County Conservation, where he conducted outdoor education.

In his spare time, Don enjoys playing baseball and traveling. He and his family take annual trips to Florida and the Black Hills of South Dakota.

## Health data portal updated

IDPH has launched a new Iowa Public Health Tracking portal at a new URL. This new and improved portal will make it easier for users to access high quality data in less time. These data can improve the understanding of hazards and lead to actions that may prevent chronic illnesses. Some of the features of the new portal include:

- A brand new website at a brand new URL: <https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/>.
- Data Visualizations using Tableau. Tableau is the software product used to create the interactive data visualizations to present the public health data.
- An "About the Data" tab has been added to each topic area to provide general information about the data displayed in the Tableau visualizations.
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Chlamydia and Gonorrhea data has been added to the portal.
- Additional resources have been added to the new site such as "bites" (a data headline) on the landing page of each topic area, training videos, and a News & Updates page.

You can provide your portal feedback at any time at <https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Help/Feedback-Survey>.

## Successful summit

The 2018 ISTEP Summit held April 2 in Ankeny included 118 youth and 44 adults, with 17 counties represented: Bremer, Calhoun, Carroll, Chickasaw, Dallas, Delaware, Dubuque, Fremont, Harrison, Johnson, Lucas, Polk, Scott, Van Buren, Warren, Webster and Winnebago.

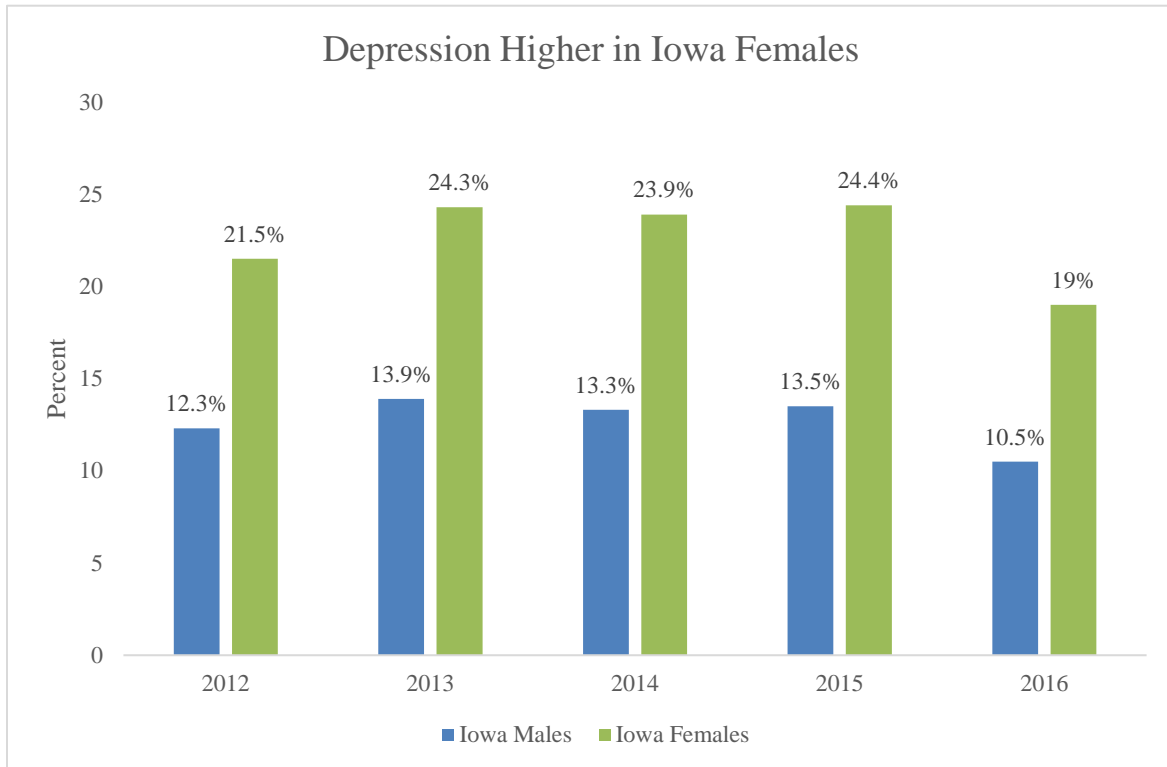
New leadership elected:  
President: Talbot Mastio,  
Newton HS



TUPAC  
Commissioners:  
Kennadie Machovec,  
South Central  
Calhoun HS and  
ElaRangel, Missouri  
Valley HS

# Monthly data snapshot

Data are essential to the practice of public health. Each month, Quick Reads highlights selected tidbits to help create awareness of IDPH data and epidemiology.



Percent of Iowans ever told they have a depressive disorder.

Source: Iowa Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2012 – 2016

The percentage of Iowans ever told they have a depressive disorder is consistently higher for Iowa women than men. The Iowa Department of Public Health creates and maintains information on perinatal depression and suicide prevention. More information about the Iowa Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) can be found [here](#). Questions or comments about IDPH data can be sent [here](#).

## Stay informed; share your story

To contribute a news item or smart practice, please write to Polly Carver-Kimm at [Polly.Carver-Kimm@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:Polly.Carver-Kimm@idph.iowa.gov).

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